

SPECIAL  
AFTERNOON  
EDITION

# The Hongkong Telegraph

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February 26 1916. Temperature 6 a.m. 50 2 p.m. 58  
Humidity 88

February 26 1915. Temperature 6 a.m. 71 2 p.m. 77  
Humidity 95 78

WEATHER FORECAST  
OVERCAST  
Barometer, 29.96

3155 日五廿月正

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1916.

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## TELEGRAMS.

### SPECIAL.

#### MILITARY FUNERAL OF RUSSIAN CONSUL AT SHANGHAI.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Shanghai, February 12, 12.55 a.m.  
The funeral of the late General Samoyloff, Russian Military Agent at Tokio, who died whilst on his way to Shanghai on the Andre Lebon, was attended by the Allied Consuls. Four hundred Allied Volunteers, and the whole of one British Company, composed the firing party. The Artillery provided the gun carriage and the French Police, including Annamites were present.

[Reuter's Service to the "Telegraph."]

#### THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE A VAST MILITARY ENTERPRISE.

The Crown Prince's Renewed Attempt on Verdun.

February 25, 12.50 p.m.  
It is estimated in Paris that the Crown Prince concentrated half a million men on his renewed attempt to force his way to Verdun, which has been his aim since September 1914.  
In order to prevent a repetition of the Crown Prince's previous blunders, the Kaiser appointed the veteran General Haeseler, ex-Commandant of Metz, and therefore well acquainted with Terrain, as his adviser.  
The new attack was based on General von Hindenburg's plan in Russia. Two hundred thousand troops were assembled on a narrow front of seven miles, extending from Brabant sur Meuse to Herbebois.  
The attack began in earnest on the 20th and 21st inst. when the French positions were furiously bombarded by the German heavy guns. The infantry began to advance on Monday evening and were mowed down by the French machine guns. Whole units were wiped out. After five days the attack resulted only in a slight advance, the failure to pierce the line at any point being the best proof.  
The German failure is in comparison with the Anglo-French advance on Loos in Champagne when the German line was broken on the first day and thousands of prisoners were captured.

Germans have been Preparing over two Months.

February 25, 5.55 p.m.  
A French daily review says:—The German offensive at Verdun apparently was not only a vast military enterprise, but a great dynastic movement. The Germans had been preparing for over two months and brought up all the forty-two centimetre howitzers, all the available Austrian thirty centimetre guns, and heavy artillery, which participated in the invasion of Serbia, besides the Kaiser's best troops; of which seventeen divisions have already been identified.

### THE RUSSIANS.

The Capture of Kermanshah.

February 26, 8.25 p.m.  
A Petrograd telegram states that the Russians have taken Kermanshah.

Turks Pursued into the Erzzerum-Khnyss Regions.

February 26, 8.25 a.m.  
Petrograd communique says:—Troops in the Caucasus have stormed the town of Ispin, and continue to pursue the Turks into the Erzzerum-Khnyss regions.  
The Russians in Persia, after dislodging the enemy from mountain positions in the Kermanshah region, occupied the town of Sakha, taking four guns.  
The Russians south of Teheran entered the town of Kasha.

Violent Cannonading on the Riga and Dwinsk Sector.

February 26, 8.25 a.m.  
A Petrograd communique says:—There is violent cannonading on the Riga and Dwinsk Sector.

Four Sailing Ships Sunk in the Black Sea.

February 26, 8.25 a.m.  
A Petrograd communique says:—Destroyers in the Black Sea sank four sailing ships, and destroyed railway bridges on the Anatolian coast.

OPERATIONS ON ITALIAN FRONTS HAMPERED BY SNOWSTORMS.

February 26, 8.25 a.m.  
A Rome communique states that operations on the whole of the fronts are hampered by snowstorms.

## TELEGRAMS.

### THE ALLIES IN THE WEST.

Sir Douglas Haig's Report.

February 25, 11.45 p.m.  
Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Our aeroplanes successfully bombed an enemy aerodrome near Lille. All returned safely.  
British artillery is active against enemy trenches about the Ypres-Commines Canal, and east of Baisinghe.

Fighting Continues at Verdun with Undiminished Desperation.

February 26, 2.35 a.m.  
A Paris communique says:—North of Verdun there has been a heavy fall of snow all day.  
The activity of the artillery on both sides continues to be most intense along the whole front, especially to the east of the Meuse, where the fighting is of undiminished desperation.  
Several German attacks with great effectiveness and of unprecedented violence on Poivre Hill were unsuccessful; another attack on the Lavoye Wood was also stopped.  
There has been no infantry action west of the Meuse.  
We attacked and captured an enemy aircraft to the south of O. Marie a Py in Champagne, taking three hundred prisoners.  
We effectively bombarded enemy works in Argonne.  
There was an artillery duel at Foch in the valley of the Vesdre.

### THE GERMAN RAIDER MOEWE.

Steamers Corbridge and Flamenco Her Latest Victims.

February 25, 3.45 p.m.  
Reuter's correspondent at Tenerife states that the Moeve's latest victims have been sunk between the South American coast and that of Fernando Noronha on January 16 and February 9. She took the collier Corbridge to the mouth of the Amazon, where she replenished her bunkers, and then sank her. On the Moeve's approach the Flamenco began to send distress signals, whereupon the Moeve opened fire on her and sank her. One of the crew of the Flamenco was drowned, and two were wounded. The captain informed Reuter that the raider is 2,500 net tons, and is fitted with six seven-inch guns, and two torpedo tubes, besides which she carries a number of mines. The Germans say that she has a speed of seventeen knots and that she has a crew of 250 men, who are under Count Donah.

Further Details Regarding the Westburn.

February 25, 1.00 p.m.  
A telegram from Madrid states that the Westburn was captured six days from Pernambuco.

February 25, 3.45 a.m.  
Seven Germans with hand grenades controlled the Westburn, which had five thousand tons of coal on board.  
It is reported that a British cruiser which had been lying at Santa Cruz, when the Westburn arrived, went out in order to capture her when she left. The Westburn had previously passed British and French warships.

### A GERMAN SHIP ESCAPES FROM MADEIRA.

February 25, 1.00 p.m.  
The German ship Hoehenfeldt (Hochfeld), escaped from Madeira on Tuesday night.

### WEATHER CONDITIONS IN ENGLAND.

February 25, 1.00 p.m.  
A blizzard is raging in England.

### COMPULSORY SERVICE IN ENGLAND.

February 25, 1.00 p.m.  
It is reported that all the married men, who have been attested, will be called up by July 8.  
The Government has decided conditionally to recognise Volunteer Training Corps organised throughout the country for home defence. The liability of those eligible for army service will not be affected.

### AUSTRO-GERMAN SHIPS SEIZED.

February 25, 1.00 p.m.  
Austro-German ships have been seized on the river Tagus, to the number of thirty-six.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR OFFICERS KILLED IN ACTION.

February 25, 8.30 p.m.  
A service was held in the St. Mary Abbot Church, Kensington, in memory of the British officers of the Fifth and Sixth Gurkhas, who have fallen in war. There was a large congregation including a number of officers and ex-officers of the Indian Army, some of whom were wounded.

## TELEGRAMS.

### EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

#### RUSSIANS PURSUE TURKS WHO ARE IN FULL RETREAT.

February 25, 12.25 p.m.  
A Petrograd communique says: After a series of battles in Persia the remnants of the enemy concentrated in the Kermanshah region where the Germans and the Turks fortified two mountain passes. The Russians stormed Bidevath Pass, which was then considered impregnable, and occupied Sikkaspasi, pursuing the Turks, who are in full retreat towards Kermanshah. The Russians captured guns, machine-guns, and much ammunition.

### THE ALLIES IN THE WEST.

German Position Bombarded in Argonne.

February 25, 4.45 p.m.  
A Paris communique says: North of Verdun the cannonade has continued with less violence and the Germans made no attack in the course of the night. We are established on an organised line of resistance behind Beaumont, on the heights to the east of Champenille to the south of Ornes. We made fresh bombardments of the German positions in Argonne and there has been intermittent artillery activity from Malancourt to the left bank of the Meuse.

The Battle Near Verdun.

February 25, 5.10 p.m.  
Reuter's correspondent at Paris says the German's great four days attack north of Verdun is at present ebbing, but most eminent authorities do not minimise the magnitude of the German designs. Consequently, the most minute precautions have been taken. A significant order of the German General Deimling, which has been published, exhorts the famous Fifteenth Corps that "in the course of its last offensive against the French, that by the display of its usual courage, prowess and other indications, the Germans hoped for a speedy and decisive victory."

Some German Claims.

February 25, 6.50 p.m.  
A Berlin communique claims the capture of the villages Beaumont and Ornes, together with four farms, and that the enemy's positions to the ridge of Loucemeau were stormed. It makes the remarkable statement that the sanguinary losses of the enemy were extraordinarily heavy, and that the Germans' normal Italian claims that 10,000 prisoners were taken.

### PRESIDENT WILSON OPPOSES GERMAN SUBMARINE POLICY.

February 25, 5.55 p.m.  
According to Reuter's correspondent at Washington, President Wilson's letter to Senator Stone confirms his absolute opposition to the German submarine policy. It affirms that he cannot consent to an abridgement of rights of Americans in any respect, and that he shall preserve peace at any cost, except at the loss of honour.

### VICTORY FIRST.

A Suggestion.

It has been suggested that we should meet the submarine menace by a threat to prohibit the use of our ports after the war to all ships flying the German flag, and at first sight there is something attractive about the idea. We shall certainly not desire to see the Red, White, and Black in British waters for many a year after peace has been signed, and no German ship is likely to meet with a very cordial reception in any British harbour. Moreover, such a prohibition, particularly if our Allies adhered to it, as they probably would, could not fail to be a very severe punishment. Everywhere we hold ports that are the gateways of the world, and to close them to German shipping would drive the German flag almost wholly off the seas. With half the Baltic coast and all the French coast to it, with Suez, Aden, Singapore, Hongkong, and all the ports of Japan shut against it, Germany's sea-borne trade under the German flag would be almost entirely restricted to the two Americas, and her traders would curse the day when her rulers saw fit to embark upon a policy of piracy. Such a punishment would be a great vindication of International Law and an example to all men of the danger of defying rules laid down for the general good.

It is from no good will towards Germany that we discourage the adoption of the suggestion at the present time. We earnestly desire to see her paying in the years of peace for the crimes she has committed in this war, but it is not prudent for this country to tie her own hands before victory is assured. Discussion of the penalty due to the criminal may well be deferred until he is before the court and we gain nothing by threats so long as he believes himself, as he does now, that he is certain to escape. We have indeed most carefully to guard ourselves against the temptation to deal weakly or timidly with the offending State when at last it has been brought to the bar of the outraged tribunal, for that is our besetting sin, and may be our greatest peril. But the manner of the punishment is to be settled according to what we and our Allies decree most proper after Germany has been beaten to her knees. Its discussion should be untrammelled by any previous threats or pledges, since it might well be that we should find the particular method suggested neither effective as against the criminal nor convenient to ourselves. We do not say it would be either, and the suggestion is certainly well worth serious consideration when the war is over. But we want to go into the Peace Conference with a clean slate and be free to write upon it what we will. Our immediate business is to defeat the enemy and to steel our hearts to inflict upon him heavy penalties for his crimes when he comes to sue for peace. What these penalties shall be we have no need to determine now.

Globe.

### LATEST SHIPPING NEWS.

MOVEMENT OF STEAMERS.  
The C.P.R. EMPRESS OF JAPAN arrived Vancouver B.C. on Wednesday the 22nd Feb. at 6 p.m.

## TELEGRAMS.

### REV. R. J. CAMPBELL.

#### ORDAINED DEACON.

(Reuter's Service to the "Telegraph.")  
London, Received, February 27.  
The eminent Nonconformist, minister Rev. R. J. Campbell, has been ordained deacon in the Church of England, at Birmingham.

### LATE JABEZ BALFOUR.

#### THE INQUEST.

London, Received, February 27.  
At the inquest on Jabez Balfour, who was found dead in an express train at Newport on Wednesday morning, his son stated that deceased went to Ebla last August in the expectation of taking up a mining appointment at Nant, close to the Chinese frontier, but the manager thought he (Mr. Balfour) could not stand the climate, so he returned to England before Christmas. The verdict was death from natural causes.

### WAR'S HORRORS.

#### A Neutral's Statement.

A stirring account of war's horrors and the great valour of the soldiers of all armies now engaged in the conflict in Europe was recently given recently by Mr. Will Irwin, an American war correspondent, in a address delivered in New York.

Speaking from his own experiences in the war zone, Mr. Irwin told in a graphic manner of what he had seen in the hospitals. He described the ravages of war in the countries and of its desolating effect on families. The burden on the women especially, he said, was too great for words. He recited incidents of courage in individuals and among masses of men which were fit to rank with the greatest exploits recorded in history.  
"I disagree with those people who say that nations grow strong on war," he said. "Nations grow strong in peace, and for that reason are strong in war. The nations now engaged in conflict have had time to prepare themselves. The exploits of the men under fire in the armies to-day are among the most thrilling in history."

"In the Vages alone there were 10 Gettyburgs fought in two weeks during the first stages of the war. The story of the heroism of the English on their retreat from Mons and of the Canadians who filled the gap at St. Julien is tremendous. No one is flinching in this war. The English told me that at Ypres, when the Germans tried to hew a way to Calais, they came on eight lines deep. It was a certainty that the first two lines would be shot down entirely, and perhaps the third line, and the men knew it. But knowing that death was certain, the Germans nevertheless came on, the men throwing their left arm before their eyes and went to their death. Not a man flinched or ran."

Mr. Irwin said, in his opinion, the French army system was the best in the world. The soldier is taught to remember that he is first of all a French citizen. He is taught to think. He instilled the recent "drive" in Champagne when General Joffre caused to be read to the soldiers in the trenches the orders of the day, stating what each action was to do.

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